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LB 936, 972, 1348

require the call center that goes with the State Disbursement Unit, it would require that the call center would be located in a rural county. Basically, how this is...how this works is on the committee amendment, AM2558, on line 21, my amendment starts out, it inserts: "The physical location of the Customer Service Unit shall be in Nebraska and shall result in the hiring of a number of new employees equal to at least one-half of one percent of the labor force in the county or counties in which the Customer Service Unit is located." So, basically, what this does is says that the call center is going to be located in a rural county. It's as simple as that. I can...I have a list here of the counties where this could be located. If it is up...I figured on average it'd be about 25 employees. So, again, this language is the same language that is out of LB 936, which is on Final Reading today, and it would require that the call center again result in the hiring of a number of new employees equal to at least one-half of one percent of the labor force in the county. That would include these counties; it would be Arthur County, McPherson, Wheeler, Blaine, Grant, Loup, Hooker, Banner, Keya Paha, Thomas, Logan, Hayes, Sioux, Deuel, Rock, Garfield. There's just...there's about...about 30-35 counties that this could be located in. I think that if this amendment is adopted, you know, I think if we, as a Legislature, kind of make a policy decision to locate some of these jobs in the rural counties, we wouldn't have to pass bills like LB 936 which would incentive or "incent" people to locate out there, or perhaps LB 1348. I think bills such as this, or an amendment such as this to bills will provide some real relief, some jobs to counties. We're looking anywhere again between 20 and 30 jobs. I just urge your adoption of this amendment. If you have any questions whatsoever, I'd be glad to try to answer them. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bourne. For discussion of the Bourne amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think Senator Bourne has an excellent idea and I'd like to ask him a question or two.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bourne.